

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A composite laminate comprising:

a coextruded cast film layer having a basis weight in the range of 5 to 50 gsm, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least two layers having different constituent parts and wherein at least one layer of said cast film is an outer layer, said outer layer comprising a polypropylene resin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, and blends of polypropylene with other polymers, wherein at least one layer of said cast film layer is a barrier layer sufficient to prevent blood, viruses and bacteria from passing through the cast film layer and is a member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and a blend of low density polyethylene and a linear low density polyethylene; and

a nonwoven substrate layer adhesively laminated to said outer layer,

said composite laminate being characterized by its high wet peel strength, improved barrier properties and its being ethylene oxide sterilizable, the high wet peel strength not being diminished but enhanced on aging of the composite laminate.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The composite laminate according to claim 1,

wherein said first mentioned cast film layer comprises at least two polyolefinic resins selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resins, polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene,

ethyl vinyl acetate, ethylene methyl acrylate, maleic anhydride modified polyethylene, amorphous polypropylene, crystalline polypropylene, random copolymers of polypropylene and polyethylene and blends thereof.

7. (Original) The composite laminate of claim 1, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer comprises a spunbond polypropylene having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm.

8. (Original) The composite laminate of claim 1, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer comprises a fabric having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm and wherein said fabric is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyester and bicomponent polyethylene/polyester fibers.

9. (Currently Amended) The composite laminate of claim 1, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer is adhesively laminated to said outer layer using an adhesive having a dry basis weight in the range of 1 to 10 gsm.

10. (Currently Amended) A composite laminate comprising:
a coextruded cast film layer, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least two layers, wherein at least one layer of said cast film is an outer layer, said outer layer comprising a polypropylene resin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, and blends of polypropylene and other polymers, and wherein at least one layer of said cast film is a barrier layer sufficient to prevent blood, viruses, and bacteria from passing through the cast film layer, said barrier layer being a member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and a blend of low density polyethylene and linear low density polyethylene; and

a nonwoven substrate layer adhesively laminated to said outer layer, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer comprises a fabric having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm and wherein said fabric is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester and bicomponent polyethylene/polyester fibers,

said composite laminate being characterized by its high wet peel strength, improved barrier properties and its being ethylene oxide sterilizable, the high wet peel strength not being diminished but enhanced on aging of the composite laminate.

11. (Currently Amended) A composite laminate comprising:

a coextruded cast film layer, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least two layers, wherein at least one layer of said cast film is an outer layer comprising a blend of polypropylene and polyethylene and wherein at least one layer of said cast film is a barrier layer sufficient to prevent blood, viruses, and bacteria from passing through the cast film layer, said barrier layer being a member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and a blend of low density polyethylene and linear low density polyethylene; and

a nonwoven substrate layer adhesively laminated to said outer layer comprising a polypropylene fabric having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm,

said composite laminate being characterized by its high wet peel strength, improved barrier properties and its being ethylene oxide sterilizable.

12. (Currently Amended) A composite laminate comprising:

a coextruded cast film layer, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least three layers having different constituent parts, [[and]] wherein at least two layers of said cast film is an outer layer, said outer layer comprising a polypropylene resin selected from the

group consisting of polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, and blends of polypropylene with other polymers, and wherein at least one layer of said cast film layer is a barrier layer sufficient to prevent blood, viruses and bacteria from passing through the cast film layer, said barrier layer being a member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and a blend of low density polyethylene and a linear low density polyethylene; and

at least two nonwoven substrate layers adhesively laminated to said outer layers, said composite laminate being characterized by its high wet peel strength, improved barrier properties and its being ethylene oxide sterilizable, the high wet peel strength not being diminished but enhanced on aging of the composite laminate.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The composite laminate according to claim 12, wherein said cast film layer has a basis weight in the range of 5 to 50 gsm.

17. (Original) The composite laminate according to claim 12, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least two polyolefinic resins selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resins, polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, ethyl vinyl acetate, ethylene methyl acrylate, maleic anhydride modified polyethylene, amorphous polypropylene, crystalline polypropylene, random copolymers of polypropylene and polyethylene and blends thereof.

18. (Original) The composite laminate of claim 12, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer comprises a spunbond polypropylene having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm.

19. (Original) The composite laminate of claim 13, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer comprises a fabric having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm and wherein said fabric is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyester and bicomponent polyethylene/polyester fibers.

20. (Original) The composite laminate of claim 12, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer is laminated to said outer layer using an adhesive having a dry basis weight in the range of 1 to 10 gsm.

21. (Currently Amended) A composite laminate comprising:
a coextruded cast film layer, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least three layers, wherein at least two layers of said cast film are outer layers, said outer layers comprising a polypropylene resin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, and blends of polypropylene and other polymers, and wherein at least one layer of said cast film is a barrier layer sufficient to prevent blood, viruses, and bacteria from passing through the cast film layer, said barrier layer being a member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and a blend of low density polyethylene and a linear low density polyethylene; and
at least two nonwoven substrate layers adhesively laminated to said outer layers, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer comprises a fabric having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm and wherein said fabric is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester and bicomponent polyethylene/polyester fibers,

said composite laminate being characterized by its high wet peel strength, improved barrier properties and its being ethylene oxide sterilizable, the high wet peel strength not being diminished but enhanced on aging of the composite laminate.

22. (Original) The composite laminate according to claim 21, wherein said cast film layer has three layers, a basis weight in the range of 5 to 50 gsm and wherein the combined weight of said two outer layers lies in the range of 3% to 90% of the total film weight.

23. (Currently Amended) A composite laminate comprising:
a coextruded cast film layer, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least three layers, wherein at least two layers of said cast film are outer layers comprising a blend of polypropylene and polyethylene and wherein at least one layer of said cast film is a barrier layer sufficient to prevent blood, viruses, and bacteria from passing through the cast film layer, said barrier layer being a member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and a blend of low density polyethylene and a linear low density polyethylene; and

at least two nonwoven substrate layer adhesively laminated to said outer layers comprising a polypropylene fabric having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm, said composite laminate being characterized by its high wet peel strength, improved barrier properties and its being ethylene oxide sterilizable, the high wet peel strength not being diminished but enhanced on aging of the composite laminate.

24. (Original) The composite laminate according to claim 23, wherein said cast film layer has three layers, a basis weight in the range of 5 to 50 gsm and wherein the

combined weight of said two outer layers in the range of 3% to 90% of the total film weight.

25. (Currently Amended) A composite laminate comprising:

a coextruded cast film layer, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least two layers having different constituent parts, [[and]] wherein at least one layer of said cast film is an outer layer, said outer layer comprising a polypropylene resin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, and blends of polypropylene with other polymers, and wherein at least one layer of said cast film layer is a barrier layer sufficient to prevent blood, viruses, and bacteria from passing through the cast film layer, said barrier layer being a member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and a blend of low density polyethylene and a linear low density polyethylene; and

a nonwoven substrate layer adhesively laminated to said outer layer using an adhesive having a dry basis weight in the range of 1 to 10 gsm,

said composite laminate being characterized by its high wet peel strength, improved barrier properties and its being ethylene oxide sterilizable, the high wet peel strength not being diminished but enhanced on aging of the composite laminate.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The composite laminate according to claim 25, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least two polyolefinic resins selected from the group consisting of polyethylene resins, polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, low

density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, ethyl vinyl acetate, ethylene methyl acrylate, maleic anhydride modified polyethylene, amorphous polypropylene, crystalline polypropylene, random copolymers of polypropylene and polyethylene and blends thereof.

30. (Original) The composite laminate of claim 25, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer comprises a spunbond polypropylene having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm.

31. (Original) The composite laminate of claim 1, wherein said nonwoven substrate layer comprises a fabric having a basis weight in the range of 10 to 100 gsm and wherein said fabric is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyester and bicomponent polyethylene/polyester fibers.

32. (Currently Amended) A composite laminate comprising:
a coextruded cast film layer, wherein said cast film layer comprises at least two layers having different constituent parts and wherein at least one layer of said cast film is an outer layer, said outer layer comprising a polypropylene resin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene homopolymers, polypropylene copolymers, and blends of polypropylene with other polymers; and

a nonwoven substrate layer adhesively laminated to said outer layer;
wherein at least one layer of said cast film layer is a barrier layer sufficient to prevent blood, viruses, and bacteria from passing through the cast film layer, said barrier layer being a member selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and a blend of low density polyethylene and a linear low density polyethylene;

said composite laminate being characterized by its high wet peel strength,
improved barrier properties and its being ethylene oxide sterilizable, the high wet peel
strength not being diminished but enhanced on aging of the composite laminate.